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THE
BROWN CREEK
WATERSHED

JULY 15, 1934.



THE BROWN CREEK WATERSHED is being put out by the Soil Erosion Staff once each month, mainly to assist in telling what we are doing and maintain a spirit of good fellowship with the citizens of the community we endeavor to serve.

EXECUTIVE

E. S. Vanatta, Asst. Regional Director
W. B. Little, Asst. Clerk

EXTENSION

H. M. Stott, Asst. Extension Agent.

SOILS

R. W. Lipscomb, Asst. Soil Expert.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Donald Christy, Asst. Agricultural Engineer

FIELD CROPS

A. A. Cone, Asst. Agronomist.

FORESTRY

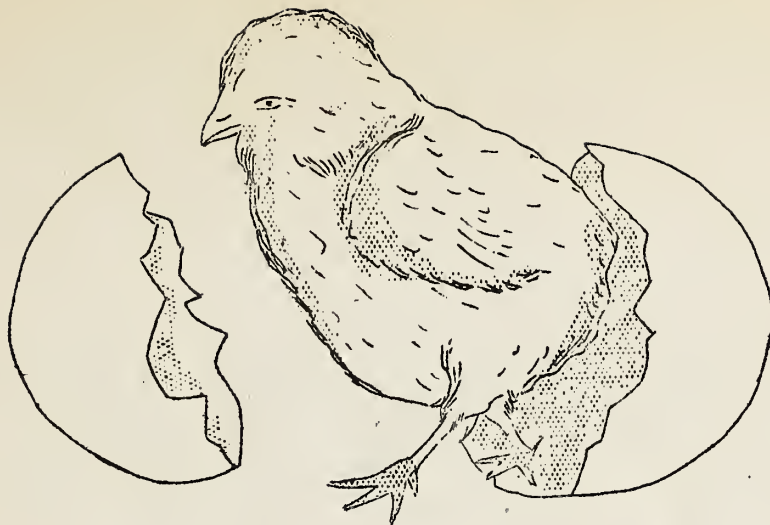
To be selected.

In addition to the services available to you, through our staff and their corps of assistants, we have the services of the CCC Camp located at Polkton also to offer. These men are divided into six crews and used in the building of check dams and sloping and planting the banks of gullies, in building fills along terraces, and in building terrace outlets.

Directing personnel for the ECW Camp at Polkton are as follows:

W. B. McManus, Superintendent
R. B. Stamey, Engineer
S. W. Myers, Foreman
S. J. Crocker "
C. S. Faw "
C. A. Neal "
C. W. Thompson "
M. L. Ross "
B. W. Ingram, Mechanic
W. L. Teal, Clerk-Stenographer.

The farmers living or owning land in the boundaries of the Brown Creek project have a wonderful opportunity in this program.



With this issue we are proud to announce the birth of the "Brown Creek Watershed," an offspring of the Staff of the Brown Creek Soil Erosion Service.

Through the medium of the printed pages of this little pamphlet we hope to bring a definite idea of the aim and plans of our service to every farmer residing within the section we are to serve. In this copy and the subsequent issues we will further acquaint you with the actual accomplishments of operation and items of personal interest.

Our staff feels that it is an especial privilege, and an added responsibility to have assigned to us the work in Anson County, because of the fact that this is the home of Dr. H. H. Bennett, Chief of the Soil Erosion Service. It was in this county that Dr. Bennett when only a mere boy, visualized the terrible and devastating effect of soil washing or erosion. It was ever with the indelible impression of soil erosion and destruction stamped on his mind when a boy that caused him to crusade through many years during his career as U. S. Soil Expert, against this evil, until in recent months he was able to bring national attention to the matter. Some twelve months or more ago he was instrumental in influencing the President to set aside from an appropriation the sum of \$10,000,000.00 to be used in waging war against soil erosion.

The work has been undertaken in the form of projects selected for typical individual erosion problems in areas representing the greater part of the United States. The Brown Creek Watershed area was selected as being representative of erosion problems peculiar to a comparatively narrow area of soil reaching in a fairly continuous belt from along the lower Hudson River south to the South Carolina line. Geologically this area is known as of the Triassic Age, Newark formation. The geologists tell us that this belt of land was once a prehistoric sea, and that the material washed from the adjoining uplands was deposited in the seabed, eventually filling it to the point that there was left an area of sand-stone, mud-stone and shale. These soft structured rocks weathered into the present prevailing sandy soils with a more or less dense clay subsoil. Unfortunately these soils are very liable to a serious loss from rainwash erosion.

The Soil Erosion Service comes to you, not as an experiment, but as a practical demonstration in the control of erosion. Our staff is composed of men especially trained in their various technical departments and equipped to the degree that they may give efficient service. We are attacking the erosion in the Brown Creek Watershed from all practical angles.

AGRONOMY DEPARTMENT

A. A. Cone.

The Agronomy Department is a very-vital part in the program of soil conservation and we wish to avail ourselves of every opportunity to serve the farmers in the matter of soil erosion control. As a matter of fact, it is important to note most of the recommended erosion control methods are practically of equal value in building a more fertile soil. For instance, when a legume is turned under, the soil is benefitted from the standpoint of fertility. This fact is usually stressed most by agronomists over the country, but there are other benefits enjoyed as a result of such a practice. The organic content of the soil is increased. This will thereby increase the water holding capacity of the soil. The porous nature of the soil caused by such a practice allows the water to seep through into the subsoil. Otherwise you are likely to have a compact soil deficient in organic matter which is conducive to sheet erosion when surplus water runs off the soil.

The soil erosion staff is complete in that it has men to perform each job on the farm. The Agronomy Department will be glad to advise with the farmer relative to the type of crops to be grown, varieties best adapted, time of planting and rotations suitable for his individual needs and that of the farm.

We wish to visit all the farms in the area as soon as possible and discuss cropping plans for the future. Those wishing to cooperate will demand our very earliest possible attention and we expect to advise with you what has proved to be the most profitable practice in each particular case. After study of any farm I will consult with the farmer and with his help and approval draw up a cropping plan to form a part of the general five year agreement. The prevention of soil erosion and increased fertility will be kept in mind at all times in drawing up a farm program. Every farmer is fully aware of the fact that cheap cotton is produced on fertile soil, while expensive cotton is produced on poor eroded soils. This statement also applies to corn, peanuts, tobacco, small grain, hays, pastures and livestock products. No matter how skilled the employed labor on the farm might be, the amount of farm machinery owned, or the degree to which livestock are bred, the efficiency of these factors is negligible when worked in conjunction with eroded and infertile soils.

It shall be the duty of the Agronomy Department to suggest such crops that will achieve the particular purpose in mind. With the full cooperation of the entire soil erosion staff, together with the farmers in the area, a richer soil is possible, a more prosperous agriculture will dawn upon our now gullied, washed and eroded fields.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

The state of North Carolina has produced many great men and North Carolina did produce one man to whom all of the United States owes a great debt. That man was Mr. P. H. Mangum.

Mr. Mangum noted, as most farmers do, that his farm was washing away. He knew that some farmers ditched with hill-side ditches to keep the soil from washing. However, the hill-side ditch left a string of woods and an uncultivated strip down through the field. In 1885, on his farm near Wake Forest, N. C., Mr. Mangum tried making a broad ridge on the lower side forming a shallow ditch, thus leaving all the land in cultivation and yet forming a ditch that would make the "running water walk." The result was the world owes a debt to the state of North Carolina who produced such a man.

It is this terrace made up of a broad ridge and a shallow ditch that we wish to help you build on your farm. This kind of terracing, (if all cooperate) plus proper care and crop rotation would materially reduce the muddiness and overflow of Brown Creek.

The muddiness and overflow of Brown Creek could be further reduced by proper care of the raw eroding gullies, by more vegetation on road ditch banks and by taking from cultivation those slopes too steep for cultivation.

Steps are already being taken by the E.C.W. camp near Polkton, to reduce the amount of dirt and silt carried into Brown Creek. Nearly one hundred and fifty check dams have been constructed and several thousand square yards of gully banks have been protected. Not only this, but the trees and woods are cleaned so that the best possible growth can be made by the trees that will make good lumber.

This work is being carried on at present near White Store on the farms of several prominent farmers. The work on the lands of Mr. James Jones, Mrs. E. C. Jones, Mr. C. E. Rushing, Mr. J. L. Williams, and Mr. E. E. McRae, is well under way. In fact, the boys will start moving about more in the near future, working with the farmers who are extremely eager to cooperate with the Soil Erosion Service. For the present the work of the boys of the camp is confined to check dams, plantings, thinning over-thick timber, diversion ditches, debris barriers and sodding. This will do its part in making Brown Creek run clear.

AND WHAT MAKES BROWN CREEK FLOW BROWN?

It is the most fertile soil and the fertilizer which gives the creek its mud. Those things which a farmer has to buy in order to continue to raise good crops, and, as to the quantity that goes down Brown Creek -- in all probability at least twenty-one times as much plant food and fertile soil goes down Brown Creek as is sold from the farms of all the watershed in any one year.

This Department is at your service and wishes that you would bring us your engineering problems of soil erosion, terracing, gully control and mapping the farms.

THE E.C.W. CAMP AT POLKTON, N. C.

The Emergency Conservation Works as an agency of our national efforts has made it possible that Anson County should have one unit of this set-up. This unit of about 200 men is now operating in connection with the Soil Erosion Service of the Department of the Interior in affording the land owners of the Brown Creek Watershed an opportunity of obtaining special services in the control of their soils condition.

This company of men moved into our midst a little over a month ago and is now working intensively in the neighborhood of White Store in the active performance of gully and sheet erosion work, having only recently finished working Mr. J. L. Williams' and Mr. James Jones' farms and is now doing work on C. E. Rushings', E. E. McRae's and P. W. Baucum's farms and will soon move on to other farms, of which we have had a great number of cooperative signers for this service.

It is our desire that every one within the area should avail themselves of this service, and of course it is our intent that no one shall be neglected if it is physically possible for our forces to get around to them.

We are expending each week about 6000 man hours of labor on this project and within the year or longer that we hope to be here we earnestly desire to cover the entire watershed.

From time to time we anticipate an expanding program into other fields, that of forestry work and intensive sheet erosion control, and some reclamation work.

We would be very glad that as our work progresses that every land owner in the area would drop by, to observe our work, and too, our forces would be glad to make personal contact with all that are interested in the work that we could better acquaint each other with our purposes in the execution of the program.

We are happy to say that every farm owner is cooperating beautifully in furthering our efforts for his benefit by furnishing such materials as he has at hand, which is vitally necessary in carrying on the work on his farm, and in this connection we are always glad to utilize such materials as are available, wherein the cost to the owner is negligible.

Any criticisms of our plans are always welcome.

